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Hour friends who favor us with man lication with us to have rejected articles resur bey must in all cases send stamps for that purpose

The Government's Biggest Banking Business

The one great argument of the opponents of Government paper currency is, that the issue of demand notes to serve as money is banking. Consequently, the cry is: "The Government must go out of the banking business!" The fact is disregarded that in the older civilized countries, no banks, other than a few that are Government agencies, are permitted to issue circulating notes, and that their issue is not an essential par of the business of banking. The usurpation, by our American banks, of the Government function of supplying the people with a circulating medium has been permitted for so many years, that it has, in the eyes of bank officers, become not only a vested privilege but a vested monopoly.

At the same time, the champions of the banks against the Government completely overlook a case of the performance, by the Government, of real banking functions on a colossal scale. The banks in this city complain of interference with their privileges by the trust companies, and, at various bank conventions the competition of express companies and telegraph companies in making remittances of money from one point to another has been denounced as unfair, but against the enormous transactions of the Post Office in selling, in the form of money orders, what are equivalent to bank checks and drafts, not a word has yet been uttered.

The Money Order Department of the Post Office handles, in the course of a year, \$400,000,000, and in so doing it issues and redeems 33,000,000 pieces of paper. Not only does it transmit money for the pur chase of goods, the payment of debts and the making of gifts, but travellers resort to its agency to provide themselves with funds at the various stages of their fourneys, in preference to using bank drafts and letters of credit. Great as the volume of the business is, it is still growing, and Postmaster - General GARY proposes to double it the coming year, by adding a thousand a month to the money-order offices already in operation.

If the Government is to go out of the banking business it must begin by abolishing the Post Office Money Order Depart ment. Then, on the same principle, i should go out of the express business and cease to carry merchandise in the mails. Next, it should stop coining metal, running its own printing office, and doing its own engraving and printing. Finally, it should cease maintaining its navy yards docks, and all other national establishments, the operations of which interfere with the profits of private enterprise.

It is time that the talk about the Govern ment's going out of the "banking bust ness" should end. It is illogical and absurd.

The Artillery Increase.

It is said that the leaders of the Senate and the House and the Chairmen of the two committees on military affairs have concluded to confine their efforts to the addition of two artillery regiments to the army, postponing the much-desired increase of infantry to another session.

The best legislation would be to strengthen the two arms together, in the same bill of army reorganization; but if, as is feared, the present condition of the Treasury might block such a bill, there can be no doubt whatever that the artillery increase is the more urgent of the two This results from the steady progress made on the new coast batteries, which require more artillerists to man them. Indeed it is impossible to supply, with the present force, adequate artillery garrisons for the works that will be ready during the coming year.

But if it be true that the enlargement of the infantry is not to be pressed just now, it ought to be stated clearly in the debate that this means merely a postpone ment, not an abandonment. With that well understood, we do not think that the infantry need despair of proper attention another year. Their bill will then look less formidable in cost, as the artillery portion will be eliminated from it, while in the ease of the navy Congress has shown within a few years that the increase of the enlisted force at one session does not stand in the way of another increase a little later.

The Next Group of Ships.

The regular annual appropriation bills originate in the House of Representatives, and the annual provision for the increase of the navy, which has been going on for more than a dozen years, invariably forms a part of the Naval Appropriation bill. Nevertheless, the Senate repeatedly has initiated a naval increase bill of its own, as a separate measure, and sometimes, we think, has debated and passed it, just as if it were not certain to be supplanted by the regular provision in the House supply bill.

Following this treasured Senate privflege of at least introducing a navy increase measure, Mr. Hale has brought forward a bill which is very sensible, in the main, and may well serve as material for making up the real provision, which will originate in the House, It adds one battleship, to displace not less than 11,500 tons and to cost, without armament, \$3,750,000; six torpedo boats of about 175 tons, to make not less than 27 knots at the maximum, and to cost in the aggregate, including armament, not over \$1,125,000; finally, three 30-knot torpedo boat destroyers, to cost, with armament, not over \$900,000.

This cannot be called an excessive provision. More than once a session has authorized three first-class battleships, in addition to other vessels. The act of Jone 30. 1830, for ex. mole, authorized the Indiana, Massachusetts, and Oregon, and in addition the big cruiser Columbia, which cost more than all the nine torpedo boats in Mr. HALE's bill would cost. In addition, that act authorized the Ericsson. ized the Illinois, Alabama, and Wisconsin, of 11,525 tons displacement, that is, of the it. There is a report that the Russians same class to which the single new one are prep ring at Port Arthur temporary | the persons who are disabled enough in the

new torpodo boats, three of which were destroyers, of the 30-knot class. Here, again, accordingly, we have a vantly greater addition than is proposed now. On the other hand, the Navy Department

is anxious to lay out large sums in new dry

docks; and this fact, together with the need of heavy installments for ships still under construction, the condition of the Treasury, not favorable yet to large expenditures, and, finally, the armor plate problem, still not settled, perhaps justifies Mr. HALE, who follows Secretary Long's views, in not asking for more than one new battleship at this time. It should be remembered, however, that these great naval structures cannot be extemporized, and that a ship begun now can be used only two or three years hence. Accordingly, though our foreign relations may not now be disturbing, it is really the possible future rather than the present that we must consider, while a like view suggests that, before most of the payments for vessels now authorized had come due, the country would be better able to meet them. Hence we should say that, if two battleships were authorized instead of one, the addition

would not be excessive. Mr. Hall proposes to have the battleship built on the Pacific coast, provided this can be done at a fair cost. The reason is that the Oregon is our only battleship there, whereas we have the Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Kearsarge, Kentucky, Illinois, Alabama, Wisconsin, Maine, and Texas, either built or building, on the Atlantic. For an analogous reason he would have two of the torpedo boats and one destrover built on that coast. But if at the same time a battleship were authorized for the Atlantic, the question of "fair cost" might be somewhat more easily determined by the competition, since thus far only one Pacific coast firm has built steel warships other than torpedo craft.

Judge Parson.

There is a great hullabaloo among the rentlemen who live at ease by "representing abor" for an appropriate stipend, over the proposed nomination of the Hon. EDWARD M. Paxson of Pennsylvania as Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Paxson is guilty of having been Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and conse quently has that unfortunate prejudice in favor of law which is so common among Judges. When he was Chief Justice he charged a Grand Jury in the cases of the Homestead rioters that "the one great question which concerns the people of the country is the enforcement of the law and the preservation of order," and he used this language, which pains the "labor representatives" and must excite deep indignation in the bosoms of the believers in the Chicago platform:

"The law has no quarrel with labor ass ong as they act peaceably and respect the rights of others; on the contrary, while they keep within the law, they have the sympathy of all good citizens in every honest, manly effort to improve their con

"But the State of Pennsylvania will not permi these or any other organizations to trample upon the aw and deny the right of other laborers, not mem-

bers of such associations. Judge Paxson is also guilty of knowing something about railroads. He is receiver of the Reading. Managers of great railroad enterprises want him appointed. Therefore, he should not be appointed. Why should the President of the Interstate Commerce Commission be an expert? What the "labor representatives" want is a Commissioner who knows nothing about the railroad business, but who can be depended upon to bleed at the nose every time the word "corporations" is mentioned. They want an Interstate Commerce Commission that will cripple the railroads as much as possible. TILLMAN, DEES, and Sovereign would

make this kind of commission. We don't know whether President Mo-KINLEY intends to nominate Judge Paxson or not. Geographical considerations may have to be taken into account. But the objections that have been made against Judge Paxson are so many compliments to his fitness for the post.

Will England and Japan Co-operate in the Pacific?

According to a telegram from London, Great Britain and Japan have informally agreed to cooperate in the far East, and the British and Japanese warships are to meet at a preconcerted rendezvous. This agreement may put an entirely new face on the Chinese situation. It does not necessarily follow that the partition of China will not go on, but this, at least, is certain, that there will be five instead of three par titionera.

From a military as well as naval point of view, Great Britain and Japan are stronger on the eastern coast of Asia than Russia France and Germany combined. This will not be the case when the Trans-Siberian Railway is completed, but for the moment it is undeniable. With the command of the sea assured to him, the Mikado has it in his power to place on the Chinese mainland a force altogether superior to any that the Czar could array against him under pres ent circumstances. He could count on such maritime ascendancy, for all the warships that Russia, Germany, and France now have, or are likely to have, in the Pacific would be unable to cope with the Japanese and British fleets. This was as patent on the date of the treaty of Shimonoseki as it is to-day, and the British Foreign Office must now regret that it did not earn the fervent gratitude of the Japanese by encouraging the Mikado to repel the revision of that treaty, upon which Russia, Germany, and France insisted. Had the treaty stood in its original form we should now hear no talk of partitioning China; there would be no Germans at Kiao Chou Bay, and no Russians at Port Arthur. On the contrary, the Japanese would now be in possession of Corea, of the Liau Tung peninsula, and of the intervening strip of Chinese Manchuria, and, with the two naval fortresses of Port Arthur and Wei Hai Wei in their hands, they would be absolute masters of the Gulf of Pe-chi-li, so long, of course, as the British and Japanese fleets should act together. With such advantages of position, the two cooperating powers could not have failed to dominate the Pekin Government, and would have been quickly recognized as the protectors of the

Middle Kingdom. It was, indeed, a precious opportunity which England missed in April, 1895, and it would never have occurred had Germany and Russia deferred the execution of their designs upon China until after the Trans-Siberian Railway was finished. Luckily for England's future interests in the far East, the German Kaiser could not restrain his impatience, and seized Kiao Chou Bay, Again, the act of June 10, 1896, author- thus compelling the Russians to occupy Port Arthur leat the Japanese should take

could not collect there even that number without the utmost difficulty, should they lose the control of the sea, as they are cer tain to do if England and Japan assume a hostile attitude. It would be far harder to march troops from the present terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railroad or from Vladivostock than it was to march troops to the Crimes, and that undertaking brought the Russian Empire to its knees.

What Japan would like to secure through England's cooperation is sufficiently clear. She would like to see reasserted the treaty of Shimonoseki in its original form, for her people view with exasperation the spectacl of Cores and of the Liau Tung Peninsula dominated by the Russians, who are reaping where they have not sown. But Russia would fight desperately to secure an ice-free port in the Pacific, and even English public opinion would no longer sanction an attempt to frustrate that reasonable wish Some way, therefore, must be found of reconciling the conflicting interests of Russia and Japan, and it seems hard to devise one which will not involve a further dismemberment of the Chinese seacoast. The Czar might be prevailed upon to let Corea be occupied by the Japanese, who might, in the course of time, restore it to its ancient prosperity; but if he himself retains Port Arthur, he cannot with any show of decency refuse to support the German claim to a similar concession. France, however, as well as Germany, backed Russia in demanding a revision of the Shimonoseki treaty. It follows that if Germany must now have compensation, Russia's ally,

France, is also entitled to reward. On the whole, it looks as if China could not escape further mutilation, for England and Japan could not, without a war, restore the state of things contemplated by the Shimonoseki treaty. But one thing they can easily do. Such is their present preponderance on land and at sea in the far East that, without recurring to hostillties, they can, undoubtedly, secure conces sions equal, or more than equal, to thos gained, or expected, by Russia, Germany, and France.

In His Own Place.

According to the New York Tribune, if the personality or the methods of the men charged with the routine management of the necessary organization of a party offend the prejudices of a faction in the party, it is laudable for the faction to betray the party at the polls. The party, it says, "can endure defeat," but the malcontents should not submit to miscarriage of their schemes to rule it; or that is in substance the argu ment of the Tribune.

That is the course which was pursued by WHITELAW REID in the late campaign, and which he is plotting to continue in the campaign of next year. Members of the treacherous faction of which he is the malignant spirit declare openly their determi nation to divide and beat the Republican party in the momentous contest of 1898.

He and they are not Republicans from any principle, but only if the personality of the leaders of the organization suits them That is, they are Mugwumps. It is with them a question of men and not principles They did not conspire with their fellow Mugwumps to beat the Republican party in the late campaign because of any incon sistency between the Republican platform and the established principles of the party. They could not find any fault with the ticket nominated, for it was irreproachable in its composition, but they combined with the Mugwumps to defeat it solely because the managers of the party organization did not suit them; and the article in the Tribune to which we have referred gives notice that they intend to continue to gratify their personal revenges in efforts to make the party "endure defeat."

It is well that this deliberate purpose conceived by the malignity of WHITELAW REID, aroused because of his chagrin and mortification at not getting the office he is after, has been exposed thus plainly to the Republicans of this State and the Union generally. They are Republicans because they believe in the principles of their party; victions, and they use the party organization simply as a means to an end. So long as it is Republican and loyal to the principles of the party they stand by it as necessary to the consolidation of their political strength. Even if they are not altogether satisfied with it, they do not set out to get rid of it by treacherously stabbing their party. A Roman Catholic would not strike down the Church simply because he preferred another man for Pope. There are no Episcopalians in this diocese seeking to destroy the Episcopal Church because of

dislike of Bishop POTTER. WHITELAW REID, however, is trying to ncite Republicans to betray their principles by defeating their party, simply because Senator PLATT is too big a man for him to use. REID is a poor creature, a played-out politician, an unsuccessful editor, and a bitterly disappoluted officeseeker, who is incapable of understanding that men of honesty of political conviction are influenced by higher considerations his own place, and it is in the ranks of the spiteful Mugwumps.

The Publication of the Pension Rolls The Kansas City Journal raises the trangest objection that has yet been made

to the publication of the pension lists: "Many veterans do not care who knows that they ire pensioners; they would just as lief the fact were published to the world every day as not. On he other hand there are many, equally deserving, who are sensitive and would suffer a feeling of em arrassment and humiliation to know that they were publicly advertised as dependents on the Govern ment's bounty for a living. One's sources of income are his private matter, and one ordinarily does not like to spread his private matters before the public."

One's sources of income are not a private matter in so far as they spring from the Treasury of the United States. If the United States is paying pensions to persons who are not entitled to them. the names of those persons ought to be known for its own protection and for the protection of the honorable name of the honest pensioners. The Kansas City Journal seems to suppose that a pension is a gratuity doled out to the poor, a charity humiliating to the receiver. Such a view is insulting to the honest pensioners. The wages of a soldler in active service during the war were not more fairly earned than are the pensions given on account of actual disabilities. No man or woman whose name has a right to be on the pension rolls will object to the publication of them. To them such publication will bring honor and not shame.

The persons who are "sensitive" about having the pension lists published, and who will "suffer a feeling of embarrassment and humiliation" on account of the publication are the persons who know that they have no right to a pension. They are

serve a pension from the Government, and able enough to work and earn money, like unpensioned men, at their regular business or calling. Some of them are well-to-do people who are not too patriotic to take the Government's money for imaginary or trifling "disability." And presumably some to pay for it. of them are persons who are not anxious to

have their war record examined. The publication of the pension lists will be an act of justice to all who have a pension and deserve it, and to all present or future deserving applicants. The veterans demand it for their own honor. The country demands it as a means of checking the waste of the public money.

The Alphabet of Great Americans

We have already spoken of Congressman DALEELL's bill to reform the street nomenclature of Washington by bestowing the names of distinguished Americans upon the thoroughfares now aridly and harshly distinguished by the letters of the alphabet.

The Senate has also gone into the busi ness of re-naming the Washington streets Senator McMillan of Michigan has intro duced two bills dealing with this inter esting subject. The first measure provide that there shall be no repetition of stree names in the city or in the District; that the minor streets or alleys now bearing objectionable or cacophonous names shall receive new appellations, and that the names of distinguished Americans shall be preferred, living worthles being barred from consideration.

The second McMillan bill presents a se lection of names which differs in many respects from Mr. DALZELL's scheme Many of the names chosen vary from Mr DALZELL's list, and while DALZELL ran the same name both North and South, McMil. LAN distinguishes between North and South and furnishes two lists. Many readers of THE SUN will be interested in comparing the two lists, and in studying them to ascertain whether the Representa tive or the Senator has made the more tudicious selection :

DALERIA.	H'HILLAN.	
North and Son	th. North.	South.
Adams,	Adams,	Arthur,
Bancroft,	Buchanan,	Bell,
Clay.	Cleveland,	Clinton,
Decatur,	Dallas,	Dearborn,
Emerson,	Ellsworth,	Everett,
Franklin,	Fillmore,	Franklin,
Grant,	Grant,	Garfield,
Hamilton,	Harrison,	Hayes,
Irving.	Jefferson,	Jackson,
Kane,	King.	Knox,
Lincoln,	Lincoln.	Lafayette,
Marshall,	Madison,	Monroe,
Newcomb,	Kelson,	Nicholson,
Oglethorpe,	Otis,	Osgood,
Perry,	Polk.	Pierce,
Quincy.	Quincy.	Quftman,
Randolph,	Rutledge,	Rush,
Stanton,	Sherman,	Story.
Taylor,	Tyler,	Taylor,
Union.	Upahur,	Underwood,
Van Buren,	Van Buren,	Van Ness,
Webster,	Washington,	Wolcott.

It will be observed that while the Da zell list hitches at U. weakly introducing the word Union instead of the name of hero or statesman beginning with that vowel, the McMillan list takes boldly two worthy if comparatively obscure names UPSHUR and UNDERWOOD. We repeat that

Uncas is preferable to either. It will likewise be observed that while Mr. DALZELL gets in the names of but five Presidents of the United States, Senator McMILLAN, with only twice the number of places to fill, manages to take care of twenty Presidents. In fact, remembering that there have been two ADAMSES and two Harrisons, the Senator provides lamppost honors for all of our Presidents down to McKinley, with the single exception of poor Andrew Johnson. President Johnson would have been included, no doubt but for the more important claims of JEF FERSON and JACKSON.

But the McMillan list wabbles in the matter of principle. It runs directly against the provisions of the other McMillan bill by including LAFAYETTE, who was not a distinguished American, and CLEVELAND, who is vet alive. As for NELSON, what NELSON is meant? VAN NESS strains some what severely the principle of selection and as for Governor QUITMAN of Mississippi what chance would be ever have had in such a list but for the circumstance that eminent Os are so few ?

This is a great and onerous task for Congress. In other cities of the United States the burden generally devolves upon the Board of Aldermen.

Come Seven, Come Eleven!

Two majestic meetings will be held in this town to-night. The Committee on Constitution and the Committee on Enrollment of the new Windsor Hotel "organization," variously known as the Allkicks, the Mugchumps, and the Occasional Republicans will open for business. The Seven, or Committee on Constitution, will build a constitution and refer the same for approval to the Fifty-three. As the Seven is really a sub-committee of the Fifty-three, the constitution, when constructed, will not suffer for want of ratification. It must be kept than personal malignity. He has gone to in mind that the Fifty-three, the Seven, and the constitution will all rest upon the broad popular basis of the Nine. The Nine are understood to be the people.

Until the constitution is constituted, the Eleven, or Committee on Enrollment, will content itself with enrolling enrolling officers, if it can find them, in the Assembly districts. Then it proposes to enroll voters The chairman of the Eleven is the Hon. J. BAYARD BACKUS of the American Geographical Society. He is familiar with the history of exploration, and believes that a thorough search of the Assembly districts will reveal several souls or bodies anxious to be numbered on the Mugchump beadroll.

Let us try again not to forget that the new enrollment will rest upon the broad popular basis of Nine men appointed by nooody in particular.

With only one-third of that number great words were said in Tooley street.

A Corsicana oil well is spouting over the derrick. What an unctyous old town Corsicans is!— Univeston News.

This is not a subject for mirth. All Christman Day the Hon. ROGER QUARLES MILLS, the Corsicana Conden, sat in moody silence. He frown d at his turkey as if it were a Custom House He scowled at his plum pudding as if it were a plutocrat. What is Christmas to a t-hunter who owns a fat slice of oil territory 1 How can he spout when his oil wells are spouting in opposition ! The more oil in Corsicana, the more vinegar in the once sugared soul of ROGER QUARLES MILLS.

The splendid project of the Hon. John W. LEEDY, Governor of Kansas, for a 1,700-mile irrigation canal from the Milk River in Montana to the Red River in Texas has already been mentioned with due sympathy and reverence by THE SUN. The estimated cost of \$365,000, or \$366,000 in case of leap year, is absolutely a trifle, as Governor same class to which the single new one are prep ring at Port Arthur temporary the persons who are disabled enough in the would belong. That same act gave us ten | quarters for ten thousand soldiers, but they | eyes of benevolent local examiners to de-

mean to pay a cent. He believes that the necessary millions "could be easily obtained from the multimillionaires by imposing an income tax on the rich." Could there be a simpler way of raising money? The project would be a little more symmetrical, however, if the multimitlionaires were made to dig the ditch as well as

Just here Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON Steps

Just here, just there, just everywhere. When and where does that fertile gentus fail to step in with full plans and specifications? He is the universal constructor. He can prove one thing as well as another, and will make or repair statistical tables while you wait. We may "he" out of habit, but we know perfeetly well that there is no such man as "Mr. EDWARD ATKINSON." Not one big head could carry all that weight of inventiveness and heavy stock of theory. Under the name and style of "EDWARD ATKINSON" some 125 think ers and philosophers have for some years carried on a wholesale and retail plan and statistics business. The Atkinsonian multiplicity and multifariousness seem marvellous even when this fact is admitted.

The perils of travel in Asia Minor, to which the Rev. Dr. TARTABIN HEPWORTH has so frequently and so mysteriously referred in his earlier despatches, are brought out a little more clearly in his latest communication from the scene of his heroic exploits:

"I can enjoy the days in this region, but the night are so dreadful that I am in utter despair. I am, for example, sitting at this moment in a little second-story room, about ten feet square. It is snowing without and our prospects for the morrow are not agreeable. We were warned on our arrival that i for reasons which I dislike to refer to. It seems horrible beyond expression to be in such a glorious spot under such frightful circumstances, but it is the only way to reach Erzeroum, and whatever happe nust be endured."

It is an unpleasant subject, but the civilized world ought to know exactly what the intrepid Doctor is enduring for its sake,

No wonder the Herald refers editorially to the Rev. Dr. TARTARIN HEPWORTH'S despatches as "sermons in stone, written under trying and distressing circumstances in a far off land!

A gentleman from Independence county, Ark., who killed another gentleman and was sent to the penitentiary in 1892 for twenty-one years, has just been pardoned on condition that he will leave Arkansas within thirty days and abstain henceforth from intoxicating liquore If the former condition is fulfilled, it is hard to see how the State is going to see that the latter condition is fulfilled. It seems unjust to the gentlemen from Independence county to drive him into exile; and the sister States of Arkan sas cannot be expected to stretch out hands of the warmest welcome to a citizen of whom she is so eager to deprive herself.

The political activity of the Hon, SAMUEL Gompens promises to be reasonably large next "The plans for our political action in the interest of labor," he tells the Denver News, "are only in a tentative state at present. The American Federation of Labor proposes, however, to take such political action as will compel the lawmak ers, the executives, and the judiciary to enact, enforce, and to define laws in the interest of ou people. We shall elect our own representatives wherever possible, and at all times defeat the enemies of our cause, irrespective of party." Sc it appears that the Government of the United States for the year 1898 is to consist of the the Hon, SAMUEL GOMPERS.

There are some wise and prudent men in the Illinois Legislature. The House Revenue Committee has reported, with a recommenda tion to pass, a bill "which makes an onslaught on all corporations organized under other laws than those of Illinois, providing that the capital stock of such of these companies as do busi Board of Equalization the same as that of companies existing under Illinois laws." The same committee has reported favors bly a bill levying a tax of 2 per cent, on the gross receipts of gas and electric lighting con However, 2 per cent, is considered in sufficient, and a strong contingent favors an in-crease to 5 per cent." Two per cent. is ridicuous. Imagine the Hon. RICHARD TURPE stopping a coach on Hounslow Heath and begging the occupant to oblige him with a couple of shillings!

A weekly newspaper published in Boston contains this urbane and tolerant explana-tion of the municipal election in that city:

"The Mayoralty election in this town has simply oved, counting Ruley's vote and Quincy's plurality that there are seven thousand more ignorant voters in Boston than there are honest, educated, represenative American citizens. The election proves not ng more or less."

We should have liked to see the Hon. Enwire UPTON CURTIS, Republican, elected Mayor of Boston, but we hope and believe that there are mighty few men in Boston or anywhere else so narrow, mean, and foblish as to as sume that all political virtue dwells with then and that ignorance wins when their side is licked. The Mugwumps ought to be allowed to monopolize that sort of thing.

CURRENCY BASED ON BANK ASSETS.

Warning from the Vallure of the Chestau from the Comptroller of the Currency.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A bank firector told me to-day that Mr. Singerly had porrowed \$650,000 from the Chestnut Street Intional Bank, of which he was President, and had then borrowed a lot more from the Chestnut Street Trust and Savings Fund Company, of which he was also President, upon the security of the stock of the Chestnut Street National Bank, out of which he had already extracted all the wind.

Where would the public be in the Baltimo or Gage plans of "currency based on assets of banks like Singerly's, all of which Singerly has lost I Sound money this, indeed!

I see by the Washington correspondence of the Inquirer of this morning, that Comptroller Eckels is reported to have said yesterday, that "the consistion of Singerly's National Bank is now 50 per cent. better than it was two years ago" iand yet it now falls i); and that "a year ago an election was on, and that it would not have done to have had a bank failure at that time;" thus admitting that, in fact, he has known for two years past the perilous condition of the bank. The Press reports Mr. Eckels as saying, that "there is not the slightest suspicion of wrong doing on the part of any one connected with the bank;" and this, not withstand ig the provision of the National Bank act, which distinctly forbids the loaning of more than 10 per cent. of the capital of a national bank to any one person or corporation; and that Mr. Singerly had taken out of his bank, for his own uses, not only its entire capital, but \$150,000 more than its capital?

If Mr. Eckels is going to run the Chicago National Bank, of which he is about to become President, upon this view of right and wrong-doing in national banking, his bank will probably fall as disastrously as Mr. Singerly's, which is so hopelessly ruined that a resumption of its business is known to be imposable.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24, 1897. I see by the Washington correspondence usiness is known to be impossi Philadelphia, Dec. 24, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Under the head "Three La Together in Skilliess," you print to-day: letter from "F. P. L." justifying that spelling. I find in the Standard Dictionary that two is are the correct number used to get the best result in speliing the word to question

Webster's Dictionary, it is true, prints the word skill-less, but as a compound word, which bars it out of the present inquiry. Webster's gives Shakespeare as authority for this form The adjective occurs four times in Shakespeare In some editions it is printed occasionally a skill-less; generally, however, as skilless. In the first folio, of 1623, it appears invariably as

The English word, therefore, which contains thrice in succession the same vowel or conso nant, as in Hawalliam, were there such a word has yet to be produced in answer to the question of our correspondent, "R. S."

JEFFERSON ON THE MILITIA. The Third President's Plane for the Organism

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Lieut. Foote's suggestion in his paper on our volunfor which he received the prize this year of the Military Service Institution, that a keleton militia regiment be formed in every Congress district throughout the country, is an deal one from a Jeffersonian point of view. In fact, the third President, in his desire to place the volunteer forces of his day on an effective footing, formulated plans of organization ever more comprehensive than is Lieut, Foote's

and earnestly urged their adoption. The creation of a strong national guard was not a sudden impulse of the founder of the Democratio party after he had been chosen President. That policy was announced by him in the first national campaign made by the party in 1800. It even antedated that cam paign, for Jefferson wrote, in 1799, to Elbridge Gerry: "I am for relying for internal defence on our militia solely until actual invasion." By "internal defence" was meant the suppress on of disturbances like the whiskey rebellion dur ing the Administration of Washington.

Jefferson's profound convictions on the sub ect are put in a still stronger light by the significant fact that he made the fostering care of the militia by the Federal Government a funda mental principle of the party he had founded In that justly celebrated and eloquent first in augural address wherein are laid down the basic elements of republican government, and which declared the maintenance of "a well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace, and for the first moments of war, till regulars may relieve them," to be one of "the essential principles of our Government." This declaration he supplenented in his first annual message to Congress by earnestly pressing on the attention of the legislature the importance of sustaining in every way possible the citizen soldiery. "We should at every session," he said. "continue to amend the defects which from time to time may

show themselves in the laws for regulating the militia until they are sufficiently perfect. Nor should we separate until we can say we have done everything for the militia which we could do were an enemy at our doors." Nearly very subsequent annual message con

tained an urgent appeal in favor of the militia. "The militia," he pleaded in 1802, "is our general reliance for great and sudden emerger cies." In the fifth annual communication t Congress Jefferson recommended it to consider whether it would not be expedient for a state of peace as well as of war so to organize a class of the militia as would enable us, on a sudder emergency, to call for the service of the younger portions, unincumbered with the old or those having families." He estimated that there wer then "upward of three hundred thousand able bodied men, between the ages of 18 and 26 years," that could be counted on "to furnish a ompetent number for offence or defence in any point where they may be wanted and give tim for raising regular forces after the necessity o them shall become certain." "I cannot, then, he added, "but earnestly recommend to your consideration the expediency of so modifying our militia system as, by a separation of the active from that which is less so, we may draw from it, whenever necessary, an efficient corps fit for real and active service, and to be called to it in regular rotation.

In 1608 the inaignities to which we were con pelled to submit on the seas at the hands of Great Britain and France left but little hope of redress short of war, for which we were not ready. Jefferson, in his last annual message to Congress, forcibly pointed out the necessity of making adequate military preparations:

For a people who are free and who mean to remai so, a well organized and armed militia is their best curity. It is, therefore, incumbent on us at every neeting to revise the condition of the militia and t ask ourselves if it is prepared to repel a powerful en emy at every point of our territories exposed to inva tion. Some of the States have paid a laudable atter tion to this object, but every degree of neglect is to be found among others. Congress alone have power to produce an uniform state of preparation in this great organ of defence. The interests which they so deeply feel in their own and their country's security will present themselves as among the most importan

· Jefferson's keen interest in the militia was un abated even after his retirement from the Presi dency. To his successor, Mr. Madison, he wrote in 1809: "We shall never be safe until we have a select corps for a year's distant service, and the classification of our militia is now the most essential thing the United States have to do. But the wisdom of Jefferson's policy was not seen until the country saw the city of Washing on captured and the Executive Munsion an the Capitol given to the flames.

At the present time a wise statesmanship commands the observance of the Jeffersonian policy of fostering and strengthening the volunteer forces so as to make them ad any emergency that may arise.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

Three Electric Buttons; One Deadly. From the San Propelson Framin

HONOLULU, Dec. 9,-For the first time in eight years there will be a nanging in Honolulu. The man whose life will be surrendered on the gallows is a Hawaiian named Noa. He will be exe cuted Monday next. Noa's victim was a Chicuted Monday next. Noa's victim was a Chinese storekeeper of the island of Molokai. The scaffold is up and all is in readiness for the hanking. There are three electric push buttons connected with the arrangement, set in a table in a distant building in the prison yard. Three prison Wardens will touch them when the word is given. One of the buttons will open the death trap. No man, save the electrician who put them in, knows which one that is.

Victims of the Peppermint Habit.

Prom the Cleveland Leader.

CHILLICOTHE, O., Dec. 22.—The third death from peppermint poisoning that has occurred at Richmondale in the past six months took place last night, the victim being 'Squire C. C. Davis, one of the best-known residents. He had been drinking a large quantity of peppermint, and was taken ill last night and died before medical assistance could be summoned. Richmondale is in a local option township, and the residents, being unable to get whiskey, are driven to essence of peppermint. Many have formed the peppermint habit in the past year, and the authorities will have to take some action in regard to the matter. From the Cleveland Leade

His Boorishness Explained From the Westminster Gazetta.

"A day or two ago I entered a Czech café, in a little frequented part of Prague, and chanced to forget to take off my hat immediately on entering, a custom which prevails almost everywhere in German-speaking countries. This was apparently taken as an in suit by the people in the café, and to my surprise was greeted by a veritable storm of shouls and . For a few moments, having no knowledge o the Czech language, I did not realize my offence, but seeing that they had mistaxen me for a German, and fearing that they might really attack me, as severe Sermans have been attacked and maltreated lately

the waiter, who told me that 'pig' and 'dog' were among the polite epitheta the Czechs had shouted a me when they mistook my nationality."

I called out in German, 'I am English.' The effect of

the announcement was instantaneous, and the tumult immediatery subsided. But later on I quisitoned

From the Buston Traveler Mr. Cross-That baby across the way seems to i herit its voice from both its parents.

Mrs. Cross—Why do you think so, dear? Mr. Cross-It makes a great deal of noise like it

ather, and keeps it up like its mother.

From Two Republics.
The Associated Press is sending some excellen grapevine telegraph to this country nowadays. It is ery seldom the Associated Press gets left on grape vine matter. The next thing, ladies and gentlemen,

will be something else.

Browning to Live Longer Than Tennyson.

From the Westminster Review. What posterity will think of Tennyson it is hard to predict; but we may safely assume that his facie wil be eclipsed by that of Browning.

A Supplementary Opinion. From the Boston Traveler.

"I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for you!" exclaimed the discharged prisoner.

"Well, you would probably have done time," said the proud lawyer.

PURGE THE PENSION BOLLS!

The Bemand for a Just Bertsten Mchood from All Parties and All Sections.

From the Rochester Herald. Now that THE SUN, which is exceedingly well disposed toward the Republican Administra-tion, is shedding its light in the dark places of the Pension Bureau, we may expect results.

From the Scrunton Times. The soldiers themselves should be the loudest in a demand for the purgation of the pension rolls.

From the Chicago Tribun No other nation in the world since the time of the Greeks has taken up all who served or pretended to serve, and in reality did not by reason of physical disability, and allowed them to pension themselves upon the community. It is time for a radical reform of the pension list. If it is not done, it will soon swamp the Treasury. From the Chicago Times-Herald.

Something must be done to prevent the growth of this crass. Otherwise what will avail the efforts to keep the national receipts and expenditures safely balanced! We cannot go on saving at bung and wasting at spigot without inviting dis astrous consequences. The pension list should be purged. It should be freed of frauds and cheats. It should only be extended with great caution, It should be made again what it was once, a rea roll of honor.

From the Louisville Disputch. The only remedy for the evil is to remove the ension Bureau from politics and put it in the War Department, where it naturally belongs. Congress should also revise the pension laws, so as to make it more difficult for frauds to be practiced upon the Government.

From the Oil Oily Bilezurd.
THE SUN'S article is a most significant one, as it shows conclusively that thousands and thousands of men are drawing pensions who have no just claims, unless all who were in the army have them.

From the Allegheny Record. The thousands of honest men drawing pensions from the Government are the sincerest in condemning pension frauds. There is little doubt that the Grand Army of the Republic would willingly aid Congress in purging the rolls. The pension roll should be a roll of honor, not of dishonor. Let the purging begin at once.

From the Columbia State. THE SUN printed on Monday the most search ing, the most scorching analysis of the great pension swindle we have ever read. It is not speculation—this article of nine columns—it is muster of facts with their demonstration, and it cannot but appal the honest reader and tax-From the Philadelphia Record

Is it necessary in order that every deserving soldier should be pensioned that the bounty of the nation should be abused by an army of undeservers ! The soldiers themselves should be the loudest in a demand for the purgation of the pension rolls. From the Springfield Union. THE SUN proved conclusively what has long

been suspected—that the grossest frauds are current in this department-and it is time to have a general housecleaning. It will be an expensive task, but in justice to the taxpayers of the country and to the worthy pension should be done, and, more than that, com-From the Albany Times-Union

No one begrudges a pension to a deserving recipient, but every one does insist upon it not being given to a fakir or a sharper. From the Wilmington News The pension system is a blot upon the nation.

The entire matter ought to be placed in the hands of a competent body of commissioners with power to purge and purify the awful list of fraudulent pensioners. From the Washington Times.

It cannot be doubted that this matter will have to be investigated, and the rolls purged of many names of those whose services or disabilities do not come within the letter or spirit of the several laws on the subject; but who, without right or merit, have become the stipendiaries of generous people.

From the Rochester Herald. THE SUN is right. The pension iniquity must e understood, let the blame strike where an d whom it will.

From the Raltimore Sun. It has demoralized citizens, promoted fraud and perjury, and drawn thousands of ablepodied men from useful employments to make loafers and bummers of them.

From the Mount Vernon Argus. THE SUN has rendered the deserving soldier and the genuine patriot a service of the first magnitude. A national reform is sure to be the outcome of THE SUN'S course. It has opened the eyes of the nation to the greatest swindle of

From the Torrington Iten

The genuine veterans of the war and their survivors will welcome any movement toward a purging of the pension list. It is to their in terest that the list be made a roll of honor, as it is the nation's duty to see that its generosity is not imposed upon. From the Norfolk Dispatch. It is a fraud on its face. There are thousands

of old soldiers who scorn a pension, yet they are represented on the dishonored list by some bounty-jumper or some swindler who swells the list and robs the people. From the Middletown Argus The Treasury deficit is forcing the pension

question prominently to the front, and it is an encouraging sign that many leading papers are discussing it fearlessly and frankly. From the Bridgeport Standard. No honest pensioner need fear an investiga-

tion and only the frauds would suffer from one. From the Buffalo Times. The situation revealed is a deplorable one and Congress cannot afford to neglect giving is speedy attention.

From the Carbondale Herald. No persons ought to be more interested in this matter than the veterans themselves, and they should lend every effort toward making an honest and just revision of the pension rolls,

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Succi, who recently completed his sixty-fourth public fast in Rome, has abstained from food in his performances for 2,500days of his life-nearly seven Addington Park, for a century and till lately the official country palace of the Archbishops of Canter-

bury, has been sold for \$375,000 to a new millionair

from Johannesburg. Brusseis being obliged to have an elevated railroad to connect the stations at opposite ends of the city, is going to build it 1×0 feet from the ground on ornsnental piliars, with a glass roof beneath to protect the streets below.

Queen Victoria has accepted as a jubilee gift from. a private person the engraved signet ring of Queen Mary II., wife of William III. The same collector gave her Majesty the diamond signet ring of Henrietts Maria, King Charles I.'s queen, ten years ago. An Englishman belonging to the Society for the Prevention of Crucity to Animals, who and two coach-

men at Naples fined for ill using their horses, was aten nearly to death afterward by the two men in front of his hotel. Mr. Leonard Courtney, M. P., introduced an innovation in lecturing before the Stat stical Society recent-Being unable to read his paper on account of bad

eyesight, be spoke it, being prompted at frequent in tervals by a young man who sat near him holding the manuscript, Sarah Bernhardt and Mile. Bartes of the Comédie Française have been elected Vice-Presid nts of the committee in charge of class XVIII. (Materials of The-atrical Art) of the 1900 exhibition, of which M. Gall-

hard, director of the Grand Opéra, is President. They are the first women chosen as official managers of a committee not connected with woman's work. The Esri of Rosslyn, whose skill as an amateur

battet dancer has delighted select audiences in Great Britain and the colonies, is now in the Hanaruptey Court, and, it is said, will soon appear as a professional in a new play by Mr. Pinero. In the seven years since his coming of age he has added #450,000 to the incumbrances on his estates, and has run up unaccured debts to the amount of \$50,000, the money going, as he states on eath, "in money lenders' interest, gambling, horse racing, and other extravagances." There are no assets whatever.